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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of wisdom, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Prior to the Great Compromise, Benjamin Franklin addressed the Constitutional Convention: "We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. . . . In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us . . . have we now forgotten that powerful friend?"

Lord, You are the powerful friend referred to by Franklin, and we turn again to You to ask that Your wisdom might break through the similar political darkness of these days.

Bless the Members of the people's House and all of Congress with the insight and foresight to construct a future of security in our Nation's politics, economy, and society. May they, as You, be especially mindful of those who are poor and without power.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, too many of our leaders today seem to want to be modern-day Winston Churchills and think of themselves as great war leaders. They are far too eager to go to war and far too willing to stay in a war after it has started. But the American people do not want permanent, forever wars, and especially do not need such wars.

I salute President Trump's decision to bring our troops home from Syria. With a \$21 trillion national debt, we

simply cannot afford to be the policeman of the world.

Our very unnecessary wars in the Middle East have now cost us several trillion dollars that we have had to borrow and have resulted in the deaths or horrible injuries to thousands of young Americans and many more thousands of innocent women and children. They have created more enemies for our country around the world.

The Bible tells us in both the Old Testament and New to "seek peace and pursue it."

RECOGNIZING DELEGATE JOHN OVERINGTON

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Overington for his long record of legislative service to the State of West Virginia.

Opting to retire, John won't be representing the people of Berkeley County, West Virginia, for the first time in 34 years when the House of Delegates convenes in Charleston next month.

John and I served together in the legislature for decades in the eighties and early nineties. I came to know John as someone who has always followed his conservative principles, even when it wasn't in vogue.

During the 34 years he served in the minority, many of those votes were lonely fights, but he never swayed from his staunch, unwavering commitment to conservative principles.

After the 2014 election, the Republicans took the majority in West Virginia Legislature for the first time in 84 years, and his conservative values helped dictate a new agenda. He chaired the Industry and Labor Committee and served as speaker pro tem.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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I wish the best to John and his wife, JoAnn, as he retires from this legislative service. Serving as a citizen-legislator can often be a thankless task. The people of West Virginia owe him a debt of gratitude for his decades of service and his dedication to West Virginia.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

LINCOLN ROOM DESIGNATION

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1063) designating room H-226 of the United States Capitol as the "Lincoln Room".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1063

Whereas Abraham Lincoln was elected to the House of Representatives in 1846 to represent the 7th Congressional District of Illinois in the Thirtieth Congress from March 1847 to March 1849;

Whereas Abraham Lincoln served the people for 15 years as a State Legislator, Member of Congress, and President of the United States;

Whereas Abraham Lincoln was a member of the Illinois General Assembly for four terms and was respected as an effective leader of his party and a popular campaigner;

Whereas during Congressman Lincoln's tenure, the room now designated as room H-226 of the United States Capitol was used as the post office of the House, where he spent almost every morning exchanging stories near the fireplace;

Whereas the old post office space was just steps away from Congressman Lincoln's desk, where he worked and voted and is now marked by a gold plaque on the floor of Statuary Hall;

Whereas Congressman Lincoln was known to be the champion story-teller of the Capitol, having an endless repertoire of tales;

Whereas Abraham Lincoln was one of America's greatest presidents, whose life was a story of adversity, perseverance, and leadership; and

Whereas when the United States was at its darkest hour, Abraham Lincoln fought to end slavery and brought the country back together: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That room H-226 of the United States Capitol is designated as the "Lincoln Room".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1063.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1036 designates the room H-226 of the U.S. Capitol as the Lincoln Room.

I appreciate my colleagues' work on this and find it an appropriate honor for such a distinguished leader of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also support H. Res. 1063. This bipartisan bill designates room H-226 in the U.S. Capitol as the Lincoln Room.

As we all know, President Abraham Lincoln is commonly considered one of the greatest President's in the history of the United States. But what you might not know is that President Lincoln, at one point in his career, was a Member of the House of Representatives from the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois.

President Lincoln served one term in Congress, from 1847 to 1849, and was known for his opposition to the institution of slavery and the Mexican-American war. During his short time in Congress, President Lincoln spent a significant amount of his leisure time in the U.S. Capitol room now known as H-226.

This resolution, which names the room for President Lincoln, is an appropriate honor for a former Member of this distinguished body who led our country in one of its darkest hours. So I support the resolution and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1063.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AMENDING FEDERAL ASSETS SALE AND TRANSFER ACT OF 2016 TO ENSURE ADEQUATE TIME FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS REFORM BOARD

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 7318) to amend the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to ensure that the Public Buildings Reform Board has adequate time to carry out the responsibilities of the Board, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7318

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FEDERAL ASSETS SALE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(c)(2) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114-287) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (B);

(2) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through "In selecting" in subparagraph (A) in the matter preceding clause (i) and inserting the following:

"(2) APPOINTMENTS.—In selecting"; and

(3) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iv) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively, and indenting appropriately.

(b) TERMINATION.—Section 10 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114-287) is amended by striking "the date of enactment of this Act" and inserting "the date on which the Board members are appointed pursuant to section 4".

(c) ACCOUNTING SYSTEM.—Section 12(e) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114-287) is amended in the first sentence by striking "the date of enactment of this Act" and inserting "the date on which the Board members are appointed pursuant to section 4".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7318.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7318 amends the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 to align the timeline for the sale of unneeded properties with the appointment of the Public Buildings Reform Board.

This bill will result in more savings for the taxpayer by providing the Board with sufficient time to identify properties to be sold or redeveloped.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also support H.R. 7318. This bill that is under consideration this morning addresses an outstanding issue that has emerged since Congress originally passed the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act, known as FASTA, back in 2016.